

1954

## *Brown v. Board of Education*

A Supreme Court decision changed education for all children.

---

Before 1954, many cities in the United States had separate schools for white and African American children. The law said this was acceptable as long as the schools were equal, and as long as children received an equal education.

In the early 1950s, some people started to believe that separate was not equal. They wanted African American children to be able to attend the schools that white children attended. People went to court to make this happen. One of these people was Oliver Brown. Mr. Brown, an African American, wanted his children to go to a white school in Topeka, Kansas. He did not

believe that separate schools were equal. Mr. Brown wanted to prove that white children were getting a better education. The Brown case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1954, the Supreme Court agreed with Mr. Brown. The judges said that to succeed in life, children need a good education and that a separate education was not equal. The case became known as *Brown v. Board of Education*. Afterward, it was no longer acceptable to have separate schools for white children and African American children.

(c) Segregation of children in public schools solely on the basis of race deprives children of the minority group of equal educational opportunities, even though the physical facilities and other "tangible" factors may be equal.

*From the Supreme Court decision written for Brown v. Board of Education*